

## SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Respect

Everyone wants to feel safe in their neighborhood. Feeling safe means you are comfortable at home, at the park, walking down the street, or waiting for the bus. Keeping the city of Seattle safe is the primary duty of the men and women of the Seattle Police Department. We take great pride in preventing crime, enforcing the law and promoting public safety, and we also take great pride in building strong relationships with all communities.

Together, we can help keep our neighborhoods safe. At some point in your life, you may come in contact with the police -- who are here to serve and protect you. If you are stopped and questioned by an officer for any reason, the important things to keep in mind for you and the officer is respect, cooperation and honesty.

### **Stopped and questioned by the police?**

Here are suggestions to help ensure safe and respectful behavior when you come in contact with the police:

- Follow the directions you are given.
- If you have trouble understanding English, tell the officer immediately.
- Keep your hands visible, and avoid sudden movements.
- Do not jump to conclusions.
- Wait and listen for the reason you are being stopped. You will be told.
- Understand your attitude may send a message -- either good or bad.

## **When you are in your vehicle, here are more suggestions to follow:**

- When you see the emergency lights or hear a siren, remain calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road.
- Stay in your vehicle, and keep your hands visible.
- Wait for the officer to ask for your drivers license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration.
- If you are stopped at night, turn on an interior light for visibility and safety.

## **Firearms safety:**

Police officers are trained to react to an immediate threat to themselves and to the lives of others -- and sometimes with deadly force. If you are stopped by the police and you have a firearm:

- Do not pull the weapon out.
- Do not reach for the weapon.
- Put your hands in the air.
- Tell the officers that you have a firearm and where it is located.

For more information about firearms safety, specific laws and police practices in the city of Seattle, go to **[www.seattle.gov/police](http://www.seattle.gov/police)**.



### **SEATTLE POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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